(b) whether Government have contemplated new areas to use the atomic energy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The areas where atomic energy has been used for peaceful purposes, are

(i) Generating nuclear power

(ii) In the fields of Industry, Medicine and Agriculture.

(b)The reasearch & Development effort in identifying newer applications of atomic energy for peaceful uses, is an ongoing process. Some of the new areas in which the department is working are:

(i) Setting up of Electron Beam Centre at Kharger (Navi Mumbai) to develop Polymer formations.

(ii) A Nuclear Desalination Demonstration Plant at Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu) to demonstrate the feasibility, safety and economic viability of coupling it with the nuclear reactor for providing potable water.

(iii) Significant development has been made in the field of intricate and complex inspection and gauging systems for the Indian Oil Corporation's cross-country oil pipelines. A prototype has been developed and is undergoing field trials.

(iv) Setting up of a prototype "Poton Irradiator" at Lasalgaon near Nasik to demonstrate the feasibility of increasing the shelf life of potatoes and onions on a commercial scale.

Testing of Hydrogen and Neutron Bombs

3300. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in possession with sufficient data generated by the 1998 nuclear tests at Pokhran to protect India's security interests and for signing the CTBT;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to test more hydrogen and neutron bombs before signing the CTBT; and

(c) the details of comparative capabilities with our neighbours on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) All Nuclear Weapon Specialists involved in the design and conduct of the May 1998 nuclear tests carried out by India, have on the basis of data collected during the tests and afterwards, come to the conclusion that the tests performed exactly as per design. A dozen new ideas and sub-systems were tried out in these advanced weapon design tests which included the test of a thermonuclear device at the controlled yield of 45 KT and all of them worked perfectly. The nuclear tests of May 1998 have provided full design information for weapons with possible yields from low yield upto about 200 kilotons. Government's position on the CTBT was laid down by the Prime Minister in Parliament in December 1998. While Government closely monitors all international developments on the CTBT, Government's position on the treaty continues to be based on considerations of national security and national interest alone.

(c) Government closely monitors all developments in its neighbourhood which impinges on its national security. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interest in accordance with its own assessment of threast to our security.

Loss due to rotten wheat

3301. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 506 given in Rajya Sabha on 27th July, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the rotten wheat has been quantified in terms of money loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof with action proposed to be taken against officials responsible for this; and

(c) what preventive measures are to be taken to avoid the occurrence of similar situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The losses indicated in the reply to the Unstarred Question 506 given in Rajya Sabha on 27th July, 2000, stated to have occurred in the storage of foodgrains (Wheat, Rice and Paddy in terms of rice) during last three years are due to various natural biotic and abiotic factors. There has been no loss to what due to improper storage or negligence.